

## Message Text

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17

ACTION EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8019

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KINGSTON 2343

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, JM

SUBJECT: TEXTILES -BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS

REFS: A) STATE 133929; B) KINGSTON A-87 OF JUNE 28, 1974

1. REF A), ITEM 2, LOCAL TEXTILE OUTPUT FIGURES FOR 1974 AND PROJECTED FIGURES FOR 1975, 1976, AND 1977 ARE AS FOLLOWS: IN SQUARE YARDS 1974--APPROXIMATELY 16.4 MILLION; 1975--18.04 MILLION; 1976--19.84 MILLION; 1977--21.82 MILLION. TEXTILE OUTPUT PROJECTIONS ARE BASED ON A JIDC (JAMAICA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION) ESTIMATE OF 16.4 MILLION SQUARE FEET WOVEN IN 1974 PRIMARILY AT JAMAICA'S TWO PRINCIPAL TEXTILE MILLS, ARIGUANABO AND ST. CATHERINE. JIDC BELIEVES OUTPUT OF LOCAL CLOTH (WOVEN MOSTLY FROM IMPORTED US, UK, AND JAPANESE RAW MATERIALS) SHOULD INCREASE ROUGHTLY 10 0/0 ANNUALLY OVER NEXT THREE YEARS. ACCORDING TO THE AJIDC, LOCAL PRODUCTION PRESENTLY DOES NOT SATISFY DEMAND IN IN JAMAICA AND GARMENT MANUFACTURERS WILL CONTINUE TO IMPORT LARGE QUANTITIES OF OVERSEAS FABRIC. 1974 IMPORTS OF TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS TOTALED J\$40,381.973 (BTN CATEGORY 65).

2. CLOTHING OUTPUT FIGURES PRESENTLY NOT AVAILABLE.

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FOLLOWING FIGURES REPRESENT AMOUNT ( INDOZENS) OF

CLOTHING EXPORTED TO OVERSEAS DESTINATIONS (US, UK, CANADA, AND CARICOM COUNTRIES). (SOURCE: JAMAICA EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS, 1974 "BTN CATEGORY 84"); IN DOZENS: 1974--370,630; 1975 (PROJ)--389,162; 1976 (PROJ)--408,620; 1977 (PROJ)--429,051. JIDC ESTIMATES THAT CLOTHING PRODUCTION IN JAMAICA WILL INCREASE ABOUT 5 0/0 ANNUALLY OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS. PRESENTLY ABOUT 400 SMALL BUSINESSES ARE ENGAGED IN CLOTHING MANUFACTURE OF WHICH APPROXIMATELY 40 EMPLOY MORE THAN 50 WORKERS AND ACCOUNT FOR 70 0/0 OF THE EMPLOYMENT IN THE JAMAICAN GARMENT INDUSTRY. MAJOR ARTICLES MANUFACTURED IN JAMAICA FOR OVERSEAS EXPORT ARE BRASSIERES, COTTON KNIT SHIRTS, LEATHER GLOVES, SPORTSWEAR, LADIES' DRESSES, OUTERWEAR AND UNDERWEAR. WITH THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE GOJ, THE JIDC IS CONDUCTING A FEASIBILITY STUDY TO EXPAND LOCAL GARMENT MANUFACTURE IN ORDER TO EXPORT MORE TO THE NORTH AMERICAN MARKET. THE LOCAL MARKET HAS BEEN FOUND TO BE LIMITED. THE JIDC HOPES THAT EVENTUALLY 75 0/0 OF LOCAL FIRMS WILL EXPORT EXCLUSIVELY TO NORTH AMERICAN MARKETS. THESE FIRMS WOULD BENEFIT FROM INCENTIVES OFFERED UNDER THE EXPORT INDUSTRY ENCOURAGEMENT LAW.

3. OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS, MUCH GOJ EFFORT WILL BE DEVOTED TO TRAINING PERSONNEL AND UPGRADING EXISTING AND EXPANDING NEW FACILITIES. IT P EXPECTED THAT A MARKED INCREASE IN JAMAICAN APPAREL MANUFACTURE WILL BEGIN AT THE EARLIEST ONLY IN 1979-80, AFTER TRAINING AND EXPANSION HAS BEEN COMPLETED. GERARD

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